

WASHINGTON.

Important Action of the House on the Internal Revenue Bill.

Taxes on Sales of Merchandise and Gold Transactions Agreed to in Committee.

The Niagara Ship Canal Project Shelled.

Congressmen from Louisiana and Arkansas to be Admitted to Seats.

Interesting Senatorial Debate on the State of Parties.

Passage of the Naval Appropriation Bill by the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 17, 1865.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE BILL—TAX ON SALES AND GOLD TRANSACTIONS.

The amendment to the bill, which was passed by the House to-day, will be acted upon in the House to-morrow. Nearly two hours were devoted to the consideration of the proposed tax on sales, to which a strong opposition was developed. The opponents of this measure quoted largely from an able article in the *New York Herald* against it. It was urged strongly by others that it was the most equitable mode of assessing tax and easiest of collection. Mr. Odell, in advocating it, introduced statistics, compiled from the returns of the Treasury Department, showing that the imports for the last fiscal year amounted to \$328,614,330, to which add duties, premiums and other charges, and the amount would be in round numbers \$564,500,000. The exports for the same period were \$340,000,000, leaving a net of \$224,500,000. Foreign trade of \$905,294,000, leaving a net of \$605,294,000. The amount of gold and silver coins, which would give an aggregate of \$2,115,793,000, upon which the tax of half per cent would apply, yielding a revenue of \$1,057,965. The census returns show the value of the manufactures of the country, even at former prices, in the States not in rebellion, to have been \$1,751,500,000. This amount multiplied by three—the number of estimated transfers from sellers to buyers—gives an aggregate of \$5,254,500,000, on which the tax would amount to \$2,627,250,000, giving a total on foreign trade and manufactures of \$3,685,715. This does not include sales of produce in any form.

The amendment was finally adopted in committee by two majorities. The result in the House is doubtful, although the friends of the measure have strong hopes of being able to carry it, notwithstanding the strength of the opposition developed to-day.

Unexpectedly, Mr. Stevens' amendment to the tax law, providing, in effect, for a tax upon all gold transactions of twenty per cent, was adopted in committee of the House just at the close of to-day's session, but will be rejected to-morrow when the amendments adopted in committee are voted upon in the House.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE. The Senate made little progress in legislation to-day. Mr. Segar's credentials as Senator from Virginia were laid on the table, indicating that the majority do not intend to allow States that have been in rebellion to resume their functions in the Union until they give evidence of penitence.

At the close of the morning business Mr. Hale commenced a speech, which led to a debate which occupied the day and evening. After exposing alleged frauds in the management of the Navy Department, which he attributed to Assistant Secretary Fox's influence, whom he charged with having said: "He would camp on Hale's track," Senator Hale delivered a sort of valedictory, saying that he would retire from the Senate. He gave some advice to the republicans in the way of "freeing his mind." He is in some sense the father of the party, and evidently considers it an ungrateful child for now sending him out in the cold.

Mr. Salsbury expressed the greatest delight at the confessions of Brother Hale, and said it verified his prophecy of the tendencies of republicanism. He also pronounced a Fourth of July eulogy on the glorious old democratic party.

Mr. Doollittle corrected Mr. Salsbury's history and definition of democracy, and then made a complete and triumphant vindication of the officers of the Navy Department.

The interesting political debate culminated this evening in the maiden Senatorial speech of Senator Nye, of Nevada. It was a most patriotic, eloquent and glowing tribute to the heroic devotion of the loyal people of the State to the government of their fathers, and a skillful dissection of modern democracy, which was denounced as the creed of the traitors Davis, Toombs, Wigfall and Company.

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It is stated to-night that a committee, composed of Mr. Richard Dandridge, Attorney General Speed and others, who have, at the request of Governor Fenton, examined carefully the calculations and basis upon which Provost Marshal General Fry assigned the quota of New York, under the last call for three hundred thousand men, and that the quota as stated by him is correct within twenty-five, and there will, therefore, be no reduction in the number called for.

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MR. TUCKER, (rep.) OF ILL., SAID THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY WOULD HAVE OTHER QUESTIONS TO DECIDE THAN THE MERE FORMALITY OF THE SEAL.

Mr. Willey replied that he would not insist on the matter. He would not insist on the matter. He would not insist on the matter.

MR. HUNTER, (rep.) OF ILL., FAVORED THE REFERENCE.

Mr. Segar represented a political community at war with the Union, and in his opinion not entitled to Senators on this floor.

Mr. Salsbury regretted that a question of this magnitude had been precipitated on the Senate at this late period of the session, when so much public business that has yet to receive consideration. The Senator from Michigan does not exaggerate its magnitude. Sir, it is much to be regretted that the Senate, with all the powers and privileges pertaining to that office—powers and privileges diplomatic and executive—should be called upon to consider the credentials of a man who has been in rebellion against the United States, and who has been in rebellion against the United States.

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